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a pawl having a plurality of arms extending therefrom, pivotally secured to said housing, said pawl being dimensioned and configured to engage a keeper, said pawl pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position

a pawl-retaining arm pivoting between a latched position and an unlatched position; and means for pivotally securing said housing and said pawl-retaining arm.

REMARKS

Claims 23 to 58 are pending in this application. Applicant has amended claim 38 so as to describe the subject matter in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, to make and /or use the invention. Further, Applicant has amended claim 26 so as to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In addition, Applicant has cancelled claims 37 and 54 and incorporated the allowable subject matter of these claims into claims 23 and 41 (respectively).

1. The Examiner's Rejection of Claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner opines that the latch would not be able to function if the pawl is biased toward the unlatched position.

Applicant has amended the specification so as to describe the actuation of the latch and the counterclockwise rotation of the pawl, initiated by the movement of the pawl retaining arm. Specifically, the Applicant has amended the specification so as to recite that the pawl is held in the horizontal (latched) position by the pawl retaining arm. Upon actuation, the pawl retaining member moves rearward thereby allowing the rear leg of the pawl to disengage from the pawl retaining member allowing the pawl to rotate (counterclockwise) into the downward (unlatch) position. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection should be withdrawn.

2. The Examiner's Rejection of Claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph